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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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BRIEFS

OIL PRODUCTION TO INCREASE--According to Maj Marco Tulio Espinoza, head of the Mining, Hydrocarbons and Nuclear Energy Secretariat'soil promotion department, production is expected to reach 10,000 barrels of oil by this year's end. The wells in Rubelsanto and Chinaja produce 8,500 barrels of oil per day. This figure will be increased. In addition, area "AA" south of Peten and north of Alta Verapaz is currently being explored. It is expected that this area will soon enter the phase of exploitation. Espinoza also announced that the Hispanoil and Texaco companies are exploring in Area "D," which is located north of Peten. Results are expected to be satisfactory, since there have been indications that hydrocarbons exist in the area's subsoil, he said in conclusion. [Text] [PA172011 Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish
9 Sep 82 p 5]

CSO: 3010/2344

PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AGREEMENTS TO BE SIGNED

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Aug 82 p 12

[Text] Minister Emilio Rappaccioli, director of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute (INE), announced yesterday that Nicaragua will sign within the next 30 days two important agreements with Brazilian and French companies calling for a geophysical survey, the computerization of the data and petroleum exploration.

The first agreement will be signed in the second half of August between the Nicaraguan Petroleum Enterprise (PETRONIC) and the Brazilian petroleum enterprise (BRASPETRO), which will perform a petroleum exploration survey in the vicinity of Masachapa, on the Pacific Ocean. The first phase of the task is intended to increase the knowledge on the area through geophysical surveys, for the subsequent drilling of petroleum wells.

The second agreement will be signed with an enterprise of the French Petroleum Institute (state owned), which will survey the hydrocarbon potential of the Nicaraguan Atlantic region and computerize the available data on the subject. The cost of this survey is \$1 million and will be financed by the World Bank.

The INE official, who is optimistic about this undertaking, said that after the results are known the Nicaraguan Government can ask for bids from international private and state concerns to exploit the petroleum.

According to the statements of Rappaccioli, the contracts specify that if petroleum is discovered, the Nicaraguan revolutionary state will pay the contractor the costs of exploration and a royalty of up to 30 percent of the revenues from such a source, a percentage that will decrease as production of the black gold increases, and the national demand is ensured first of all. The royalty will be paid off in petroleum.

"The sovereignty of the country will be guaranteed in this case," he said, and added that "as with all natural resources, the petroleum is owned by the people for their benefit and in terms of the national development."

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CSO: 3010/2248

TWO NEW HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS TO BE BUILT

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Aug 82 p 12

[Text] Minister Emilio Rappaccioli of the INE [Nicaraguan Energy Institute] announced yesterday that Nicaragua will carry out two priority hydroelectric projects at a cost of 7.65 billion cordobas which will produce 509 MW in 1991.

The INE decided to reduce the 316 projects that the Somoza regime had contracted for in this field to 13, seeking to be more realistic about the goal of energy independence. Some 85 percent of the energy will be generated by water and geothermal sources of power in 1991. Nicaragua will have finally attained its independence in this sense despite a 130 percent increase in consumption that has been projected for the end of the century.

The information was released on the occasion of the delivery of the feasibility studies of these two important projects, the Mojolca and the Copalar, which were made by the Nicaraguan private firm Hidrotecnia.

It is estimated that the Mojolca will take 4 years to complete. Its installed capacity will be 159 MW, and its cost will be about \$265 million. The installed capacity of the Copalar will be 350 MW, and its cost will be \$500 million.

INE Minister Emilio Rappaccioli announced that the Mojolca project will be completed in 1989, and the Copalar 2 years later, but he explained that either of the projects could be started first. It all depends on information still to follow.

Rappaccioli underscored that when the two hydroelectric plants (and other smaller ones) are in operation, Nicaragua will produce 86 percent of the electric energy by geothermal and water power, and it will purchase only 14 percent of hydroelectric power from Costa Rica and Honduras. By that year, the national demand will have increased 130 percent, and 40-50 percent of that will be attributable to the national agribusiness. Nicaragua currently consumes 1 billion kWh annually, and by then the consumption will be 2.3 billion kWh annually.

Although the cost of construction is high, the return on the investment is a short term and highly profitable situation in view of the high cost of petroleum, he said, and the annual rate of return will be 16 percent of the outlay.

He reported also that the Momotombo geothermal project will go into operation in June of next year, and that it will have an installed capacity of 35 MW.

The high-level study is the first performed by a Nicaraguan team of engineers. Construction will start next year on the Tuma River (a tributary of the Grande River of Matagalpa). The turbines will be located at the foot of its dam. The dikes will form a reservoir of 130 square kilometers, 2.5 times larger than Lake Apanas, and the volume of water will be eight times larger.

The Mojolca hydroelectric plant will generate an average 620 million kWh annually, which by using petroleum would take 1.2 million barrels at a cost of \$40 million.

Rappaccioli said that the Copalar project could get international financing, and asserted that the government recently signed a cooperation pact with the Soviet Union for the construction of a 350-MW hydroelectric plant.

When the two big hydroelectric power plants go into operation, Nicaragua will produce annually 1.3 billion kWh by water power (56 percent) and 700,000 kWh by geothermal power (30 percent), and the remaining 300,000 kWh will be bought from other countries.

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ENERGY SITUATION IN COUNTRY DESCRIBED

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 29 Jul 82 p 4

[Text] Nicaragua's annual petroleum expense is equivalent to 48 percent of the total exports for 1982, that is to say, some \$200 million, or 2 billion cordobas, of which 340 million cordobas are spent on the fuel needed to generate the electric power consumed by the country. That is approximately 834 million kWh.

The electric power network is made up of the Centroamerica and Carlos Fonseca hydroelectric plants with 50,000 kWh capacity each; the Nicaragua and Managua thermoelectric plants with 106,000 kWh and 75,000 kWh capacity, respectively; and three small power plants located in Chinandega, Granada and Rivas. Another eight small power plants that operate independently of the national grid system are located in Bluefields, Puerto Cabezas, Ometepe, Waspan, Tasbaupauni, Corn Island, Laguna de Perlas and Orinoco.

The hydroelectric plants do not use fuel, naturally, only water, and thermoelectric plants use bunker "C" oil, and the small power plants use diesel oil. Consumption is 40,817,000 gallons of bunker "C" oil and 1,297,000 gallons of diesel oil annually.

Ten years ago, the annual consumption of bunker "C" oil was 28,964,000 gallons, and that of diesel oil was 2,447,000 gallons. Consumption fluctuates in accordance with the kind of winter. This is due to the fact that during good winters, the capacity of the hydroelectric plants is used to its maximum and the generation of electricity by the thermoelectric plants, which are the ones that use fuel, is reduced.

For example, at the time of the 1976-77 droughts, consumption in 1977 was 72,048,000 gallons of bunker "C" oil and 6,091,000 gallons of diesel oil. The consumption of both fuels represents the maximum ever reached. On the other hand, during the good winters of 1979 and 1980, consumption of bunker "C" oil dropped to 38,731,000 gallons and 37,268,000 gallons, respectively, and that of diesel oil dropped to 998,000 gallons and 1,169,000 gallons, respectively.

And while the prices of our export products drop--such as those of coffee, cotton, meat and sugar--the price of petroleum has been rising outrageously. Ten years ago, the bunker "C" oil and diesel oil needed to produce the electricity cost \$1,708,000, while now it costs \$34,122,000.

In 1972, the price of a gallon of bunker "C" oil was 0.51 cordoba and that of diesel oil was 0.90 cordoba; at present, 10 years later, their prices are 7.93 cordobas and 14 cardobas, respectively, i.e., 14 times higher than back then.

According to the semiannual records of all the thermoelectric plants for 1981, each gallon of bunker "C" oil produced an average 12.49 kWh and each gallon of diesel oil 9.74 kWh. The same statistics show that the cost of fuel per kilowatt of electricity produced is 0.64 cordoba for bunker "C" oil and 1.45 cordobas for diesel oil.

Of the 834 million kWh generated in 1981, 276,782,000 kWh were consumed by the industrial sector. However, it is difficult to estimate how much fuel that consumption represented because the individual amounts of energy originating from thermoelectric and hydroelectric sources cannot be determined. That same year, irrigation and pumping consumed 109,373,000 kWh, and the household, commercial, state and public-lighting sectors accounted for the rest.

As is known, the electric power rate depends on the amount of kilowatts consumed, and there are four groups in that respect: from 1 to 40 kilowatts per hour, from 41 to 300 kilowatts per hour and upward. The aim is that those who consume more will pay more. The current prices per kWh are 0.93 cordoba for the first group, 1.04 cordobas for the second, 1.18 cordobas for the third, and 1.35 cordobas for the fourth.

The average rate works out to 1.11 corobadas per kWh. As will be recalled, in fuel alone, it costs 0.64 cordoba to produce a kWh in the case of bunker "C" oil, to which must be added the cost of transporting the fuel to the Managua and Nicaragua power plants and other operational costs.

National consumption of electric power last May was as follows: 4,171,139 kWh in the north section, 17,739,000 kWh in the west section, 42,779,000 kWh in the metropolitan area of Managua, 3,716,000 kWh in the central section, 11,874,000 kWh in the east section, 411,917 kWh in Bluefields, 201,281 kWh in Puerto Cabezas, and 10,179 kWh in Waspán.

In the same way that it sought to save gasoline for motor vehicles, the proper use of electric energy should be promoted in order to economize fuel in its production. The effort should be exerted especially in the services area in order that the productive activity will not suffer any setbacks.

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CSO: 3010/2248

GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 10 Aug 82 pp 3, 17

[Text] The bilateral agreement between El Salvador and Guatemala, signed by the ministers of economy of both countries, deals with the reestablishing of commerce, documenting transactions, creating a mixed commission and with other points of particular importance,

Minister Dr Jose Manuel Pacas Castro of El Salvador, and Minister Julio P Matheu Ducez of Guatemala, met in the Guatemalan capital, putting an end to a days-old problem, when trucks loaded with Guatemalan farm products were not able to enter El Salvador, because of unforeseen restrictions which were solved.

The text of the document signed by the two ministers of economy is as follows:

"The ministers of economy of the Republics of El Salvador and Guatemala, having met 3 August 1982, in Guatemala City, addressed themselves to the analysis of international trade and especially to the solution of problems which commerce between the two countries presents.

As a result of the deliberations, they agree:

"First: Re-establish free trade for all natural products originating in either country which are not found in Annex A of the General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration, leaving without injury the right of the parties to adopt methods which they believe appropriate to protect the interests of their respective countries.

"Second: Duly document all commercial transactions which are undertaken between the two countries.

"Third: Without detriment to the mechanisms established in the General Treaty of Central American Economic Integration a permanent mixed commission is created, presided over by vice ministers or under secretaries of economy, including appropriate officials dealing with a specific problem, and who would have the following functions:

"A. Keep track of the liberalization of the articles contained in the list of payment priority which the Salvadoran authorities have established.

"B. Define and outline the requirements and procedures for applying the international trade documentation and payment system.

"C. Submit a procedure and timetable to follow for solving the problem arising from outstanding debts.

"D. Look into and as soon as possible propose solutions to any problems which arise in trade between the two countries.

"Fourth: The present agreement enters into force from 4 August 1982.

Jose Manuel Pacas Castro, minister of economy, El Salvador, and Julio P. Matheu Duche, minister of economy of Guatemala."

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CSO: 3010/2262

WALTER, WITH NEW UPM, STAGING POLITICAL COMEBACK

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 22 Aug 82 p 12

[Article by Neville Martindale]

[Text]

"Antigua's former Premier, Mr. George Walter, is staging a political come-back. He is launching Antigua and Barbuda's newest political party, the United People's Movement (UPM).

"Already, Antigua has three political parties — the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP), led by Prime Minister Mr. Vere Bird; the official opposition Progressive Labour Movement (PLM), spearheaded by Mr. Robert Hall, and the Antigua Caribbean Liberation Movement (ACLM), headed by Mr. Leonard ("Tim") Hector.

"The ALP, the PLM and the ACLM contested the 17 seats in the House of Representatives, and the ALP won 13 of the seats in the 1980 General Elections. This victory gave Mr. Vere Cornwall Bird, who was born in 1909, a mandate to take Antigua and Barbuda into independence. The move towards nationhood was one of the main planks of his party's platform.

"Mr. Walter did not contest that election. His UPM is a splinter group of the Progressive Labour Movement which he had formed and headed when he wrested power from Mr. Bird during the few short years that he (Mr. Walter) led Antigua.

"The PLM went through a leadership struggle after Mr. Walter was convicted for

fraud some years ago. He was absent from active politics, as a result of this, for three years.

"Mr. Walter was the General Secretary of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union which was the labour arm of Mr. Bird's ALP. And during a period of frustration, Mr. Walter broke away and formed the PLM, and, consequently, the Antigua Workers' Union (AWU).

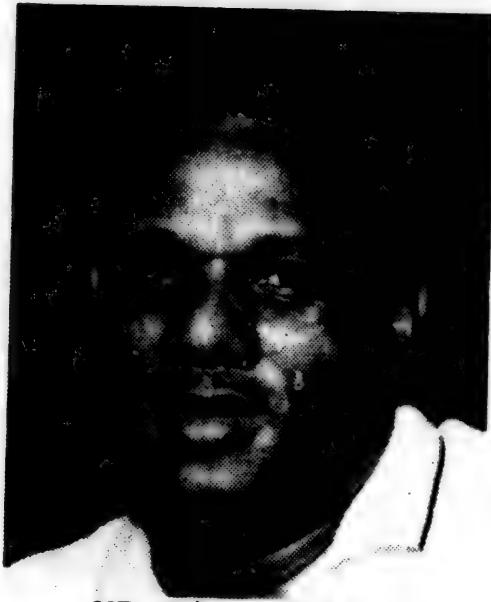
"When he was out of active politics he became a farmer, but still retained a firm attachment to the AWU. By this time Mr. Robert Hall had taken over the leadership of the PLM.

"Asked last week in Antigua whether he would consider linking his UPM to another party to remove the Vere Bird Administration, Mr. Walter said that he was not ruling out the possibility.

"But Mr. Walter is unlikely to join with any other party than Tim Hector's ACLM. A young Antiguan intellectual, Mr. Hector was born on November 24, 1942, and unsuccessfully contested the St. John's City West seat in the 1980 General Elections.

A former headboy of the Antigua Grammar School (AGS), he won, in 1964, an open Commonwealth Scholarship to a Canadian University where he continued his outstanding academic career.

Among other things, he was



MR. GEORGE WALTER

drama director at the University and wrote book reviews in history, sports and philosophy for several journals in Canada, the United States and the Caribbean. One such article has been quoted in the official biography of the brilliant and Third World philosopher Frantz Fanon.

With the renowned and Trinidad-born CLR James and others, Tim Hector contributed to an important work, the *Gathering Storm*, which is a penetrating study of Third World problems and socialism.

Returning to Antigua in 1968, he joined the new mass movement immediately and published the *Trumpet*, a weekly pamphlet that delivered political blows on the Bird regime.

Also in 1968, he became an Executive Member of the AWU and Chairman of the PLM. In this capacity, he was mainly responsible for the PLM's first Policy Statement which called for land reform, the establishment of producer co-operatives and community councils, as well as declaration of assets by all elected members of Government. With notable consistency he still advocates and stands for these very policies.

When it became obvious that the PLM would not carry out the policies in its own Policy Statement, he quietly resigned from the party even though the PLM was on the brink of attaining power. In other words, he did not stand for a mere change of power, but for the power of change.

At one time, Tim Hector was Managing Editor of the *Antigua Star* in which he wrote extensively on Antigua, the Caribbean and the Third World. He was also an outstanding teacher at many of Antigua's secondary schools.

Leading ACLM from the front-line, he has participated actively in many of the struggles of workers, farmers, teachers and youth. He has been arrested, even jailed once, without bail, for his participation in these struggles.

Yet he continues to fight for change in Antigua, never giving way to any malice, and always with courage, so that friend and foe alike have had to respect the strength of his conviction and the power of his ideas.

A fitting proof of the esteem in which Tim Hector is held internationally is provided by the fact that the United

Nations itself acknowledged his major role in the exposure of the international crime, of Space Research Corporation transhipping arms from Antigua to South Africa.

This acknowledgement came when the world body invited him to address the Security Council on Space Research's breach of the UN arms embargo on racist South Africa. This speech has been published as part of the United Nations record.

Tim Hector is a man of many parts and many interests. He is also an acclaimed cricket commentator, and was for several years, secretary of the Antigua and Leeward Islands Cricket Association. He served with distinction on the West Indies Cricket Board of Control.

However, politically, Tim Hector and George Walter are up against two shrewd political stalwarts — Prime Minister Vere Bird and his son Lester Bird who is also Antigua's Deputy Prime Minister.

The name Bird is now almost synonymous with Antigua. Can Hector and Walter break that long political tradition? That is the question.

POLITICAL LEADERS UNCERTAIN, FEAR DESTABILIZATION EFFORTS

Buenos Aires CONVICCIION in Spanish 12 Aug 82 p 14

[Text] The vice president of Peronism, notary Deolindo Bittel, stated yesterday that "he wants to believe that there will be" national elections in 1984 and voiced the view that "what Mrs Maria Estela Martinez de Peron lacked was loyal, consistent men" when she served as the nation's president.

Bittel explained that the elections could prompt "serious doubts," because "while one sector is working to fulfill this national desire, others are bent on boycotting it."

With regard to the Peronist administration that was ousted in March 1976, he stated that "there were too many men who were not that loyal but very obsequious."

Bittel recalled that "in our own province they even investigated the blood type of us Peronists" and he remarked that "elections will not solve everything; they are the way that the people can regain political sovereignty, economic independence and social justice."

Bittel made it clear that "we do not want to threaten anyone, nor are we demanding revenge; we want justice and we want those responsible for major shady deals to be exposed" inasmuch as "wages are too low to provide a decent life, and hunger is a very poor teacher."

The Radicals

Radical leader Antonio Troccoli asserted in Cordoba that any attempt to halt the march towards democracy would be "a suicidal venture" and he cautioned that the gravity of the crisis makes Argentina "a minefield in which the explosion of one bomb could trigger a chain reaction."

In another vein, he came out against an election alliance between Radicalism and Peronism because this would be doing "a disservice to democracy."

He also contended that "the Armed Forces" need to make "a tactical retreat" so that they can "engage in self-criticism and exhaust the catharsis in which they are immersed."

He acknowledged that such an analytical process could cause frictions, but he noted that in no way could it lend "viability to any attempt to interrupt the process of institutional normalcy."

For his part, the president of the Radical Civic Union (UCR), Dr Carlos Contin, asserted yesterday that "if we win the elections, we will govern as we have on other occasions, with republican austerity and simplicity and with tremendously careful management of the public sector."

Speaking on Radio El Mundo's program "Convicciones," Contin said that "although the UCR has updated its programs, if it comes to power, it will act as it always has, honestly."

He contended that "the times are very trying, but we are dedicated and can live up to our responsibilities," adding that "the next government must clearly have the support of other political forces."

"Since the UCD is at the summit of the national dialogue, as a member of the Multiparty Group," Contin stated, "it is endeavoring to carry this over to the future government so that the program it pursues is not exclusionist."

Lastly, he said that "we have to point out that this is a total crisis that requires a comprehensive response. In order to reverse this regrettable situation in which the country finds itself, we must regain credibility, reaffirm our faith in the immutable values of the republic and place ourselves within the parameters of the constitution."

Christian Democrats

The cosecretary general of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), Carlos Buyero, called for general elections no later than July 1983.

Buyero, who belongs to the Christian Democratic group Humanism and Liberation, drew attention to the seriousness of the situation in which the country finds itself, inasmuch as the military government "is not in a position to guide the nation for many more months."

"The government lacks credibility and has not achieved it in the time since the appointment, and there is no lack of those who still want another totalitarian period," Buyero said.

He contended that while Gen Reynaldo Bignone's government is playing "the role of the regime's smiling face, other sectors are still plotting to maintain the status quo."

"If this were to come about, the people's reaction would be uncontrollable, and the country would experience painful times," he said, adding in conclusion that "this concluding stage (of the military regime) must be traversed above all with patent sincerity."

ARMED FORCES STRENGTH, UNITY CRUCIAL TO DEMOCRATIC OPENING

Buenos Aires CONVICCIION in Spanish 12 Aug 82 p 8

[Article by Jorge Castro: "The Nonelectoral Component That Will Make the Elections Work"]

[Text] The situation in the country is truly grave. Its gravity stems not so much from the economic and social crisis as from the high degree of prevailing uncertainty. This uncertainty is a manifestation of the political vacuum in the spirit and conscience of society. And it is this vacuum, plus the uncertainty that it causes, that we cannot endure for too long. The vacuum must be urgently filled, which means men and a policy capable of doing so soon. Elections are, of course, one answer. But if the conditions that make them possible and beneficial are not present, in other words, a basic agreement among all significant segments of society, then they cease to be what they are in countries with some degree of political civilization--a tool for settling what is not essential--and become a sort of Russian roulette in which everything is at stake, even what is essential: the continuity of our nationhood.

Therefore, a realistic possibility of a political solution through elections unquestionably requires a nonelection component. And the missing component is an Armed Forces united in the wake of the harsh blow represented by the defeat in the Malvinas, an Armed Forces that must learn from what happened to raise its professional spirit and completely overhaul itself as a military institution.

Until the Armed Forces fully assimilate what happened in the Malvinas, we can only expect from them a pensive, hesitant approach far removed from the aims and needs of civilian government. And a civilian government in Argentina that does not have the backing and institutionalized involvement of the Armed Forces is not only half a government but a short-lived one as well. This is not because the Armed Forces are particularly given to coups d'etat, but because of the power structure itself, in which, due to the chronic political crisis that the country has been experiencing for many years, the Armed Forces are the underpinning, the girder of the Argentine political system. And this government is in a crisis, which simply means that it is having increasing difficulty governing the country and its organized sectors and even controlling

in timely and consistent fashion the enormous bureaucratic machine that comes under it. The country, hence, is becoming ungovernable. This is manifest under the military government, but it will likely become even more so under an elected civilian government. Therefore, it is in the essential interest of the political parties that the situation in the military somehow be straightened out so that by assimilating the harsh lessons of the Malvinas, it can become a professionalized pillar of our country, subordinate to the constitutional government. An essential component in the upcoming elections, therefore, is the greater or lesser degree of consolidation that the nation's Armed Forces achieve as of the time they are held. This is the nonelectoral component whose presence or absence will decide our fate that day and for many days to come. And depending on what happens, it will mark the beginning of an Argentine rebirth with a united country at peace or, on the contrary, it will represent just another of the many painful disappointments we have suffered.

Is there a choice? The answer is yes, because henceforth the military issue must necessarily become an essential political issue in which all of the country's leaders must become involved. Yes, this is just a technical matter but one in which the country's life and future are at stake. Hence, it is above all a political issue, a responsibility for all those who feel that they are citizens and, especially, leaders.

So then, the success of an electoral solution depends indirectly on resolving the conflicts within the Armed Forces, in the conviction that a weak and divided Armed Forces can, in fact, hand over power to civilians through elections but would be unable to help them lead the country effectively once power has been transferred.

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CSO: 3010/2281

REFLECTIONS ON PRECARIOUS POLITICAL SITUATION

Buenos Aires CONVICCIION in Spanish 14 Aug 82 p 8

[Editorial: "The Elections Are Irreversible, But Then What?"]

[Text] In statements to a foreign news agency, the nation's president, Gen Reynaldo Bignone, has just pointed out what seems to be the only constant in current Argentine politics: the call for elections. What he said was that "...the reestablishment of democracy in Argentina is a decision that has been made by the highest level of the Armed Forces, and it would be extremely difficult and traumatic to suspend or alter it (...) The Armed Forces realize that they cannot damage their own unity."

The need to stage elections "no later than March 1984" is the only point of agreement among the political parties, the Armed Forces and the economic sectors or pressure groups. Yet it is obvious this time that there is no enthusiasm for an electoral solution. What there is is confirmation of the complete exhaustion of the military government that has been in power since 1976. Suddenly made aware of its limitations by the defeat in the Malvinas, the military has decided to return to its barracks to lick its wounds and overcome the harsh but unavoidable consequences of a military defeat, consequences that are damaging to the two most decisive factors for this and any other Armed Forces: their institutional integrity and self-respect.

Therefore, reasoning from the negative, the country and the Armed Forces have decided to put an end to the military regime experiment and to hand over power to civilians via elections. The wise thing, thus, would be to weigh the meaning and potential of the next civilian government, which must enjoy the support of the entire nation to overcome the harsh crisis that we are experiencing, a crisis that is practically unparalleled in contemporary Argentine history.

There is something that we have to mention about the next civilian government in Argentina: it is going to be a weak government that will have serious difficulties running a country like ours that is becoming increasingly ungovernable. We are forecasting that it will be weak because Argentine political parties have an extremely stable appeal among an electorate

that is remarkably consistent, but from an institutional standpoint, as organized government structures, they are woefully backward, as is also the case with the rest of Argentina's political structures. Such an institutionally weak government will need the backing of all the country's sectors to grow strong and worthily and effectively perform its essential mission of governing. First of all it needs the institutional backing of the Armed Forces, which cannot under any circumstances divorce themselves from the essential machinery of government for the sake of the consistency and efficacy of government itself. In a nutshell, we must think more and more now of the day after the elections, which are an irreversible fact and, for the time being, the only certain fact, as President Bignone has stated.

8743
CSO: 3010/2281

COMPTROLLER GENERAL PROPOSES 'PATRIMONIAL AMNESTY'

Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 23 Aug 82 pp 1, 9

[Text] A patrimonial amnesty that would include the so-called underground economy and profound reforms in the budgetary and fiscal areas was proposed yesterday by Rodolfo Gonzalez Garcia, national comptroller general. At the same time, he reiterated his decision to exercise the "clear mandate" conferred on him by the Chamber of Representatives to put forward a program that would reinstate the credibility, efficiency, and autonomy of his office vis-a-vis the administration.

Gonzalez Garcia, who abstained from making "judgments as to responsibilities" for the state in which he found the comptroller's office, reaffirmed his willingness to "head a national movement of all Colombians to consolidate the reform program."

The Bureaucracy

Gonzalez Garcia made reference to criticisms to the effect that the comptroller's office has become an immense bureaucratic stronghold. In this regard, he said, one must take into account that the growth of bureaucracy in this office corresponds in part to the growth of government, which is today the country's principal economic agent. He pointed out, nevertheless, that a project to rationalize the office is planned, in the sense that there are certain functions that can be grouped under already existing operations, which would amke it possible to reduce the number of people on the payroll and thus upgrade the assignments of employees who are really indispensable.

Previous Controls

In an extensive interview on the program 'Five Reporters and the Personality of the Week,' on Caracol, the comptroller announced that he would gradually dismantle the much-criticized previous system of control, and noted in this regard:

"The previous system of control has been considered one of the most subtle and blameworthy ways in which fiscal-control officials interfere with the work of the administration. I have been studying this problem, and I believe

it is necessary to separate the fields between what is government and what is comptrollership, so that we will not have any of these bothersome interferences, and each branch can apply itself within its proper jurisdiction."

Doctor Gonzalez went on to announce that he would soon issue several resolutions that would launch the dismantling of the previous system of control, and that one of these measures will be to eliminate his signature from every check issued by public administration agencies to auditors, since he considers his role in controlling funds to apply to bank statements.

Political Control

The comptroller also announced a thorough restructuring of the country's information systems concerning budgetary expenditures. Gonzalez Garcia believes that the comptroller's obligation, besides exercising fiscal control, is to advance a project for political control over the budget, which after all is his particular jurisdiction. "It may be," he said, "that this will create suspicion, that it will create a superficial rash in certain sectors that have so far enjoyed uninterrupted flattery, but I hope that President Betancur and his economic team, as well as the majority of Colombian public opinion, will recognize that this effort to re-establish intellectual and technical excellence should be well received."

Elimination of Bonds

The comptroller also revealed that he was discussing a proposal to suppress "the troublesome requirement to bond everyone who handles public funds. In fact, this is a method we inherited from the Spanish regime, which was mistrustful by nature, through which one attemptst to insure an official's morality by means of a policy issued by an insurance company. This type of bond is ordered to be withdrawn, and besides the cost is excessively high for our budget."

The Moral Crisis

Doctor Gonazlez was questioned concerning accusations of waste in decentralized agencies, and he replied:

"On several occasions I have insisted that the country must become aware of the ultimate cause of our growing immorality. We cannot simply attribute it to the head of the comptroller's office or the the public sector. I think that what has reached a crisis is the country's social and economic system. That is why it seems good to me that the government should have decided to deflate the pomp of certain public customs in order to put what we economists call the emulation, or imitation effect, within well-controlled bounds. Because over the last few decades we Colombians have tried, consciously or unconsciously, to live in accordance with foreign habits, copying foreign models, and in our consumer frenzy we have gradually exhausted the possibilities of balancing our account of national economic activity."

Monetarist Truce

The comptroller went on to speak about inflation, its effects, and the policies adopted by recent administrations to combat it, and he showed himself partial to a truce in monetarist policy. He said it is necessary to deflate expectations of inflation and added:

"We are seeing that double-digit inflation, which is already running over 30 percent for the fiscal year, distorts every one of the country's economic phenomena, and promotes these negative ferment that have our country on the brink of dissolution.

"One hopes that President Betancur will insist on his austerity program--austerity in every sphere--and that Colombian society, in the upper strata, will itself understand, in the first place, that one must put a stop to luxury spending, this waste of resources, so that we can return to a life style within our nation's means, said Gonzalez Garcia.

He insisted that there must be a halt in our monetarist policy, and restated the need and urgency to adjust customs procedures and the Exchange Law, Law-Decree 444 of 1967, to our current national needs.

Patrimonial Amnesty

Finally the comptroller declared himself fully in favor of reform of the national budgetary process, and remarked that "we cannot continue with measures that are like temporary patchwork that doesn't address the problem of the net result, which is why the standards that have been in effect for the last 6 years must be readjusted to the reality of Colombian Government and public expenditure."

He likewise declared himself in favor of a tax reform, and noted: "In this regard, there is a framework within which subjective moral judgments vary, but we all recognize that in our country we have an economy of several different levels, and in order for the Colombian Government to be able to manage the totality of the economy in an orderly fashion, one must necessarily begin on the ground floor of these realities.

"Generally in these cases there are more than a few sectors who allege that reform of this type will create excessive incentives for those who have capitalized, who have accumulated capital in the shadows, outside the law. But I would speculate as to whether our country has not in these last few years reached a point of being permissive of this type of economic activity; I wonder who would be in a position to cast the first stone."

Referring concretely to the possibility of a patrimonial amnesty that would take this underground economy under its wing, Comptroller Gonzalez Garcia pointed out:

"Generally when one tries, when one wants to carry out a profound economic reform, one must take reality into account. We cannot legislate for archangels when we are dealing with human beings.

"I think that a patrimonial amnesty would be good for Colombian finances," said Comptroller Gonzalez Garcia in conclusion.

9839

CSO: 3010/2239

TAX CREDIT CERTIFICATE BENEFITS DOUBLED

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Aug 82 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] By means of Decree 2440, dated August 20, 1982, the government has established a basic restructuring of the Tax Credit Certificate [CAT] in order to balance policy toward the agricultural and industrial sectors.

This law, which was issued to fulfill the provisions of Law 67 of 1979, according to which the government should set the terms and levels of the CAT before August 30, to take effect the first of January of the following year, falls within the framework of programs announced by President Betancur to reactivate the productive sectors of the economy and to slow the negative trend of the balance of trade observed in recent years.

The Betancur government's decision represents an additional strain on the treasury of almost 4 billion pesos in addition to the 4 billion already credited as of today. But according to the strictest official estimates, this amount will be more than made up for by incoming revenue in 1983 from new exports. This measure is considered essential in order to promote diversification of the economy through expansion of such exports.

The decree rearranges CAT levels and seeks balanced treatment of both the agricultural and industrial sectors. Harmony between these two sectors is an essential part of the new development strategy. In this context, it should be emphasized that a significant group of agricultural products, such as cotton, tobacco, and bananas, which are suffering from the depression cycle in international prices, will receive strong incentives as a result of this measure. Also, a significant group of industrial products will benefit from the maximum level of tax incentive, which has been set at 15 percent.

The government expects this restructuring to help increase use of installed capacity, as it increases incentives to exports. It is likewise very important to reduce the imbalance in the country's foreign trade, which, should it continue, could create problems for us with respect to the availability of foreign exchange in the near future.

9839

CSO: 3010/2239

HEALTH CLINIC OPENED IN SAN ANDRES ISLANDS

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 21 Aug 82 p 8-E

[Text] A modern clinic, considered one of the best in the country for its level of basic and intermediate patient service, was recently inaugurated by Ernesto Holguin Belplat, director of Social Security, and Alfonso Jaramillo Salazar, who was then the minister of public health.

Construction of the physical plant for the San Andres Clinic, which is modeled on modern architectural lines of comfort and ample space, cost only 58 million pesos.

Hospital equipment, which was imported and brought directly from the United States by air, cost 28 million pesos. It consists in highly sophisticated laboratory, X-Ray and medical-surgical equipment, laundry services, central sterilization services, operating-room equipment, hospital beds, instruments, odontological cabinets, power plant facilities, and ambulance and other equipment.

With this equipment the Social Security Institute [ISS] is able to offer efficient maternity and pediatric services, simple surgery, emergency care, out-patient consultations, and other aspects of service to eligible patients. Only in cases where a patient must be taken to a high-level specialist will he or she be sent to Barranquilla or Medellin.

It is noteworthy that this modern clinic was built in 15 months, thus fulfilling a promise by Ernesto Holguin Belplat, director of the ISS, to the effect that the building would be dedicated before the end of President Turbay Ayala's administration.

On another topic, Hoguin Belplat, upon dedicating the clinic, announced that the health superintendent's office already approved inauguration of the family medicine program for the entire archipelago, so that children will be covered against contingencies not just for the first year, but for the first 18 months of life.

Holguin Belplat also said that simple installations will soon be built at Providencia to make it possible to offer care to this island's residents without having to go to San Andres.

He added that an initial sum of 5 million pesos has already been appropriated in the national ISS budget for this project.

Another project under study by the ISS is construction of a vacation center for retirees located in Bahia Sonora (San Andres), where those who are in their so-called "third age" throughout the country may spend a few days at ISS expense.

9839
CSO: 3010/2239

PDC DENIES POLITICAL ALLIANCES, VIEWS OTHER ISSUES

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 21 Jul 82 p 2

[Text] The PDC [Christian Democratic Party] said yesterday at a press conference that the PDC is not making any political alliance with other parties but it is understood that it is working on a program of action to advance the government of national unity.

Spokesmen for the PDC, lawyers Julio Adolfo Prendes, Rodolfo Antonio Castillo and Roberto Viera announced that "the pact made in 1980 with the armed forces whose objective was to speed reforms seeking economic and social justice, was different."

Rey Prendes declared that "an understanding cannot be reached with political parties which have such difficult ideological lines, and that is what has begun to happen to this government." He added that "we have only shared the posts and have not entered into an agreement on the political platform of the government."

The deputies stated they know that President Dr Alvaro Magana is working with the vice presidents in the editing of a document which contains points in common taken from the parties' platforms presented during the election campaign.

The PDC faction held a press conference to express its condemnation of the assassination of Prof Hugo Reynaldo Trujillo Calles, substitute deputy from Chalatenango, attributing such an act to elements who "wish to put obstacles in the path of the democratic process." Rey Prendes said that this crime should not be blamed on the guerrillas, even though it occurred in an area where they operate, since the criminals arrived with hoods on and there is no evidence that they were extremist elements.

The PDC reiterated its proposal for working for peace, but the deputies said that the enemies of peace have increased the violence.

It was stated also that Dr Alvaro Magana was the first who spoke of a pacification project and of forming a commission which would work in that context. The deputies added that the president of the republic made it known to the vice presidents, and then Mayor Roberto d'Aubuisson appeared with a project which far from ameliorating the situation made it worse.

Rey Prendes said that "we know that Dr Magana has an idea on this subject and therefore we urge him to make known his points of view."

With regard to the armed forces, they announced that "we are behind them and share their attitude toward violence, but also we demand that they exercise vigilance over some of their elements so that they always act within the law."

The PDC announces also: "We remind the Constituent Assembly that a few days ago we presented a motion that as a collegiate body, it should make an announcement and start taking the necessary measures which will lead to the safeguarding of Salvadoran lives."

9678
CSO: 3010/2170

MAGANA SPEAKS DURING LAND DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 28 Jul 82 p 3

[Text] The provisional president of the republic, Dr Alvaro Mangana, said yesterday that forces interested in misrepresenting our political situation and the proposals to continue with the process of social and economic reforms have tried to sow doubts, especially in the international sphere.

He made the statement during the handing over of property deeds to 12 agricultural and cattle cooperatives which have benefited from the Basic Law of Agrarian Reform. Attending the ceremony were the cabinet, the high command of the armed forces, other officials, deputies, representatives of all the military garrisons of the country, members of the diplomatic corps and other persons were present as guests.

Following are excerpts of the speech made by Dr Mangana.

"You, esteemed members of the cooperatives, as owners of the land which is the basic instrument of agricultural and cattle production, have a great responsibility toward the nation and your fellow citizens. The state, in its function of protecting the economically disadvantaged, has entrusted to your hands that priceless treasure which is the land, which for us Salvadorans, given our territorial limits, takes on greater significance. In your hands rests the ability to make it produce more efficiently, counting on the technical assistance of the government sector, which at all times will be ready to offer it to you and to protect you from the actions of those, who in their blind destructive rage, bring hate, destruction and death to their brother farmers, instead of contributing to the dignity of their existence, supporting the programs of social and economic recovery, which aid the process of agrarian reform.

"On the other hand, one of the aspects of the agrarian reform process which has merited our complete attention is that concerning the payment to the former owners of the land. The government of national unity, amid economic conditions in which it has had to develop economic policy, is conscious of the need to remedy this situation and within the context of an overall solution to the economic problems, will present opportune formulas which will permit the former owners to join again in productive activity in new areas in which they could offer to the country their valuable cooperation in the economic reactivation.

"The magnitude of the task of consolidating and perfecting economic and social reforms requires the participation of all viable forces of the nation: political parties, labor unions, farmers associations, professional and technical organizations. Everyone with their contributions of experience, of knowledge and their patriotic decision to move forward, will make it possible to overcome obstacles.

"Putting words into deeds, my government has responded to the misinformation on the development of the agrarian reform process and it was thus from 3 June of this year, that public ceremonies were initiated to hand over property deeds to thousands of farmers who together with their families in their status as landowners, have joined the ranks of defenders of the democratic system which we try to fortify in our country, on the bases of justice, legality, and liberty. It is highly satisfactory to make a resume of the activities in the field of agrarian reform in a short period of less than 2 months:

- 1) On 3 June, 250 deeds were turned over in the Military Post of Usulutan;
- 2) On 4 June delivery of 103 deeds was made in this very room of the Presidential Palace; 3) On the 5 June, another 251 deeds were delivered in Nueva San Salvador; 4) On 11 June, in Sonsonate, another 163 deeds were given;
- 5) In Ciudad de la Union on 17 June, another delivery of 50 deeds was made;
- 6) In the city of Sensuntepeque, in the military post, on 21 June, 155 deeds were handed over; 7) 2 July, 250 deeds were handed over in Ahuachapan; 8) Another delivery of 331 deeds was effected 8 July in the barracks of the Treasury police; 9) 269 deeds more were handed over 15 July in Santa Ana; and 10) 22 July another 148 deeds were handed over in the First Brigade.

This means that deliveries of deeds, from 3 June till today, come to a total of 1,976, all of them in favor of farmers who are covered by Decree 207, through FINATA [National Agricultural Development Bank].

9678
CSO: 3010/2170

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE'S MESSAGE TO PEOPLE

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 17 Jul 82 pp 3, 21

[Text] The bishop's conference addresses itself to the Salvadoran people, but particularly to those involved in violence. It says:

We the bishops of the ecclesiastical province of El Salvador have arrived at the end of 4 days of intense work and we do not wish to break up without first addressing a pastoral message to our dear brothers in our care and to all Salvadorans of good will, concerning the dramatic situation in which we live in El Salvador. Conscious of the fact that we are not experts on social, economic and political questions, we want to be interpreters of our suffering people and, from a pastoral perspective, to express the following.

1. We share from the bottom of our hearts, as pastors, the sorrow and anguish of our people, innocent victims of this unrestrained wave of violence which has already exacted too high a price in human lives and material goods, putting thousands of homes in mourning and making daily life more and more intolerable.

2. As men of faith we believe firmly that this situation has a solution which must be pursued by rational means and not by the sterile road of violence.

3. For that reason we exhort all parties involved in the conflict that, abandoning all inflexible attitudes, they open themselves to a sincere, clear, loyal dialogue, animated by good will and in a spirit of true patriotism, putting the union of the Salvadoran family above private or group interests. The Church, for its part, affirms its will to labor tirelessly--from its own identity--for peace and reconciliation among Salvadorans who have had to become enemies.

4. Finally we urge all not to put their trust in human efforts but in Him who said, "peace be with you" and who came to announce the good news of peace.

May the Divine Saviour of the World-- whose feast we are about to celebrate-- and the Queen of Peace, inspire, sustain and bring to a happy ending all the efforts which are being undertaken in favor of peace among us to achieve, at last, this longed for gift.

With our blessing:

San Salvador, 15 Ju 82

**Jose Eduardo Alvarez Ramirez, C.M. Bishop of San Miguel, President of the
Bishops' Conference of El Salvador. (CEDES)**

**Arturo Rivera Damas, S.D.B., Bishop of Santiago de Maria, Apostolic
Administrator of the archdiocese of San Salvador.**

Pedro Arnoldo Aparicio y Quintanilla, Bishop of San Vicente.

Marco Rene Revedo Contreras, Bishop of Santa Ana.

Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary Bishop of San Salvador.

Freddy Delgado Acevedo, Secretary General of CEDES.

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CSO: 3010/2170

OPPOSITION NEWSMEN'S COMMUNIQUE

PA172156 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 10 Sep 82 p 2

[Communiqué issued by the "Marco Antonio Cacao Munos" Association of Democratic Newsmen of Guatemala in Managua on 8 September]

[Excerpts] In countries like Guatemala, where the government is antipopular, it is almost impossible for newsmen and the media to present truthful information in line with the people's interests. In Guatemala the press, instead of informing, misinforms; and instead of creating an awareness, it propagandizes, serving the interests of the dominant classes and imperialism.

In addition, there is the self-censorship that newsmen and the media use to preserve their own existence. Newsmen do not write all the information or the truth of the matter because they know that doing so may cost them their lives.

Despite these limitations in Guatemala, there are newsmen who are aware of their duty and are willing to risk their lives to give an unbiased report. This commitment has cost the Guatemalan journalistic sector a great deal. A total of 39 newsmen have been murdered or kidnaped in Guatemala since 1978, and more than 40 have been forced to live in exile because their lives were threatened.

The coupist regime headed by Gen Efrain Rios Montt has established a radical censorship of the press. A week after the coup d'etat, General Rios Montt sent a letter to Guatemalan newsmen and foreign correspondents asking them not to give any importance of the political-military actions carried out in the country, not to use the word guerrillas but to call the perpetrators of these actions terrorists or subversives and to report this type of information in the inside pages of the paper in small type.

After 30 June, when the state of siege was decreed in the country, the Guatemalan Government closed all sources of information. Since then and up to now, newsmen are only authorized to publish bulletins issued by the public relations office of the presidency and the army. Newsmen are also banned from taking statements from ministers or any government official.

The coupists government, which is trying to change its image abroad trying to pass as a democratic government respectful of human rights in order to

obtain the resumption of U.S. loans and military assistance, has imposed total press censorship. This censorship seeks several goals:

1. To hide from the world its genocidal "scorched earth" policy (the complete destruction of towns, the murder of the population, the burning of houses and the destruction of sown fields) as a method of destroying Guatemala's revolutionary, popular and democratic movement. The revolutionary organizations have reported that ever since the coup d'etat (March 1982) more than 5,000 people (men, women, children and old people) have been killed in Guatemala and dozens of villages have been destroyed.
2. To distort the information and present the army as victorious in many actions. In this way, the regime justifies the deaths, raises the troops' morale and carries out psychological warfare against the revolutionary, popular and democratic organizations.
3. To make people abroad believe that Guatemalans are supporting the government and that all its activities responds to the interests of Guatemalans.
4. To hide the truth. It is trying to hide the fact that Guatemala is at war and that the people are taking up arms against those in power because they are exploiting, oppressing and discriminating against the people.
5. To prepare the ground for new genocidal offensives carried out by the army against the poorest sectors by eliminating possible witnesses to their actions who could somehow inform the world about the Guatemala reality.

In view of this situation, the only truthful source of information, locally and abroad, about the Guatemalan situation is the voice of the revolutionary, popular and democratic organizations through their communiqus, bulletins, war reports, posters and combative songs.

The revolutionary, popular and democratic press sprouts from the very essence of the people in response to the exploitation, repression and discrimination they are suffering.

The clandestine press, with few economic resources but with the will and conviction of an entire people, is carrying the truth to the most remote places in the homeland. In these places the people are aware of who is exploiting, oppressing and discriminating against them. They know that the people's revolutionary war is the only path left to obtain justice, peace and freedom.

This truth is unknown abroad. The picture of our struggle known internationally is very different from the truth. In addition to the limitation imposed in Guatemala, international news agencies have laid a siege against our reports. Not much information gets out of the country, and what gets out is distorted according to the interests of imperialism.

In Guatemala, the revolutionary, popular and democratic organizations use various ways to inform and take their propaganda to the people. Among these ways are quick rallies (very brief meetings), painted slogans, banners and the use of propaganda bombs that throw out bulletins and leaflets when they explode.

The revolutionary organizations also carry out armed propaganda, meaning they take over towns in order to contact the people and pass the revolutionary message to them. They also interfere with television channels and radio frequencies in order to disseminate their ideas. These organizations also seize radio stations to issue their messages and have even gone to the extent of seizing five stations simultaneously on certain occasions, despite the strict control that the military forces have over them.

The revolutionary, popular and democratic organizations make great efforts to take their message to the Guatemalan people and to make it known abroad. Companeros newsmen and workers of the media, we urge your solidarity with our people's just struggle. We urge you to report through any means available the evolution of the popular revolutionary war in Guatemala.

A war is a very complex process and is not only limited to the combatant forces within a country. Imperialism is playing a very important role, and it is willing to attack the Central American region to defend its interests. All Central American peoples must unite in order to determine the outcome of this war. It is for us newsmen and workers of the media to tell the world about the revolutionary process and the revolutionary struggles being experienced in Central America.

For a revolutionary, popular and democratic journalism

The "Marco Antonion Cacao Munos" Association of Democratic Newsmen of Guatemala
International Newsmen's Day

CSO: 3010/2344

EPISCOPAL BODY FINDS NO FAULT WITH ARCHBISHOP'S STATEMENT

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Aug 82 pp 4-A, 11-A

[Text] "We do not consider that Monseigneur Carlos Quintero Arce, archbishop of Hermosillo, violated any provision of the general constitution of the republic in commenting on the general situation in the country," stated yesterday Jesuit priest Francisco Ramirez Meza, executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Social Communications, constitution in hand.

Meanwhile, a group of priests from the movement Church for Progress commented that to talk of the reality, to speak the truth and to create a consciousness of the situation is neither a violation of the constitution nor partisan politics.

Again and again Ramirez Meza read article 130 of the constitution to journalists, and especially paragraph 9 which says literally:

"Neither in public or private assembly, nor in acts of worship or religious propaganda shall the ministers of the religions ever have the right to criticize the basic laws of the country, of the authorities in particular or of the government in general; they shall have neither an active or passive vote, nor the right to associate for political purposes."

Monseigneur Quintero Arce, commented the secretary of the Episcopal Commission, was neither in a public or private meeting, nor was he celebrating mass, nor did he mention any specific person or official in his conversation with a journalist. He did not criticize any law or provision of the authorities. "Therefore, we do not consider that he has violated the constitutional provision."

The priest said that the constitution has been erroneously interpreted against the priests, who not only are denied the rights of citizens, but are being asked to maintain silence, without personal expression.

Ramirez Meza indicated that even though the constitution does not stipulate it, it has been considered established practice that a religious minister cannot occupy an elected post, but he could, on the other hand, occupy an appointed position, and he cited several examples in other countries with provisions similar to Mexican laws.

He pointed out the case of Nicaragua, where priests occupy important government positions, and the case of the United States, where in Alaska a priest was elected local representative.

But returning to our case, he said that it is evident that Monseigneur Quintero Arce did not violate the constitution. It was a simple conversation.

Father Dario Perez Santos from the movement Church for Progress said that it is evangelical to speak the truth, to seek excellence in persons through creating a consciousness of their reality, of the need for excellence.

"We do not believe that that is party politics. The Church does not use sophistry or axioms or rhetoric to preach. We cooperate with a clear conscience; we demand from believers and nonbelievers cooperation, understanding and strength in difficult moments, and this is also not a violation of the constitution through political activity. Today we preach unity, savings and work as necessary elements to find a way out of the critical situation and that also does not constitute a violation of the law.

9746

CSO: 3010/2256

PAPAL DELEGATE ON CLERICAL ROLE IN SOCIETY

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 25 Aug 82 pp 4-A, 9-A

[Article by Liliana Vazquez and Carlos Velasco]

[Text] Acapulco, 24 August--Girolamo Prigione, apostolic delegate in Mexico, said today that to overcome the country's problems "it is again necessary, with deeds and not with words, to inspire confidence within the population. If necessary, one must restructure the political and economic patterns," and he added that for the good "of this nation I hope that the current crisis does not bring with it any outbreaks of violence, for by no means would that be the solution."

He then stated that the clergy cannot be kept apart from what is happening in Mexico "because it has the obligation and the duty to utter moral opinions which also help.

"I do not want there to be any misinterpretation of the declarations by church representatives on the nation's problems, because that would cause friction between the state and the church, which would not be good," he warned.

Interviewed in this city's convention center, Monseigneur Prigione called for putting an end to corruption and mistrust in Mexico and he indicated that to inspire renewed confidence one must go from words to deeds. And he noted that this task "will not be accomplished in 1 day; it will take a long time and will be achieved gradually."

Later the prelate stated that the church "does not aspire to political or economic power. Neither is it seeking to be an influence group." And he indicated that everywhere in the world in the face of economic problems it is the poor "who suffer undeserved punishment."

He also referred to the church's participation in this problem and he explained that "we are only seeking to provide principles to orient and sustain Mexicans. We want to be a unifying factor; we are not seeking to participate in party politics. We are simply seeking to strengthen progress," he indicated.

He also referred to the problems being suffered by Latin America and he mentioned that "these problems are due to the underlining of values, to the lack of respect for human life and also because the sense of good and evil has been lost."

In addition, he stated that "Mexico is passing through a delicate situation, painful and lamentable; that is why unity is now required and must be sought."

9746
CSO: 3010/2256

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

PPS SEEKS SANCTIONS AGAINST PAPAL DELEGATE

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Aug 82 pp 4-A, 17-A, 19-A

["Political Fronts" column, by Guillermo G. Zetina]

[Excerpt] Yesterday the national directorate of the Popular Socialist Party petitioned the Interior Secretariat to apply article 33 of the constitution to the Vatican's apostolic delegate, Girolamo Priggione, for flagrant violation of the laws in intervening in Mexico's internal affairs.

The note by the leftwing party, according to one of its leaders, Francisco Ortiz Mendoza, also asks that Carlos Quintero Arce, archbishop from Hermosillo, and the priest Francisco Ramirez Meza, executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Social Communication, be obliged "even by judicial means" to conform to article 130 and the express regulations of the Law of Religions.

In accordance with a report by the presumed federal delegate and spokesman for the magenta party, the activity of the Catholic prelates has even exceeded the limits for toleration of those who are not Mexican citizens, not to mention those who have no right to intervene in political affairs.

Ortiz Mendoza added that the plenum of the National Directorate thus intends to curb this sort of intervention "that doubtless affects the country's political life and sovereignty."

9746
CSO: 3010/2256

CUERNAVACA BISHOP'S CALL FOR EGALITARIAN SOCIETY

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 26 Jul 82 p 7

[Text] Cuautla, Morelos, 25 Jul--In Cuautla today Bishop Sergio Mendez Arceo said that he thought that the proclamation calling for an egalitarian society was one of the prime motives for Mexicans to vote for Miguel de la Madrid. In this regard he issued a call for the citizens now to demand the fulfillment of this mandate.

Speaking today at his monthly mass at the main church, the bishop of Cuernavaca asked for solidarity with the people of Nicaragua and expressed his wish that the church in that country "not in any way be counter-revolutionary."

The text of his homily follows:

"Brothers and sisters, members of the grass-roots communities, even though in the beginning as I presented the texts to you I dwelt on the idea of the church as presented by Paul (Ephesians 4:16) I want in my final words to focus on the distribution of the loaves and the fishes as recounted by John (John 6:1-5) and anticipated in the account of the 20 loaves of bread which Eliseus gave to the 100 fellow prophets united during the famine (II Kings 4).

"These acts of the prophet Jesus are what John the Baptist calls signs. He who has faith is enriched in the interpretation of these signs.

"Through our faith we know that the bread comes from God since he has created the earth for our good, for the good of all. He has given us the task of distributing the goods of the earth. Among the Gospels, Mark is the one who most strongly emphasizes Jesus' compassion in distributing the food.

"If there was a motive for change that inspired Mexicans to vote, above all else--together with the attack on corruption--it was the call for an egalitarian society. Without compassion we appropriate indiscriminately the goods of the nation, or we waste and destroy them.

"Brothers and sisters, united in contemplation of the Bible and analysis of reality, using the best methods you must be aware of not only that which is obvious but also the most subtle mechanisms of the structure of inequality in order to prevent and resist them in an organized way.

"In the political area let us follow the footsteps of the president-elect of the Republic (Miguel de la Madrid) and let us support him and demand from him the fulfillment of the goal of an egalitarian society.

"The Mexican Constitution requires it, as it says that all Mexicans are equal; but we have become accustomed to accept a basic error if we accept these words as a statement of fact, without implementing them or making them our goal.

"Because of this the structure of inequality which contradicts the community of goods which existed among the early Christians is fixed in the heart of a people who as a whole are more pious than Christian.

"Let us also stand solidly behind Nicaragua, which is trying to establish a truly mixed economy which is at the service of the majority of its people, not a mixed economy juxtaposed between public and private sectors with each sector protecting its own vital interests while the state tries to get something for social welfare from a private sector which remains aloof and undaunted by the public outcry.

"The opposition must separate itself from the private sector and everything that adheres to it either through corruption or ignorance. Their position will always logically be at the service of its natural ally, imperialism.

"Let us see things clearly so that as Christians we will stand together solidly in faith with our Nicaraguan brothers at this time of gravest danger. Let us pray that the church will not in any way appear to be counterrevolutionary so that it will not provoke anger and be the cause of or precipitate a rupture. Some of this has happened to us."

8146

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TWO CAPTIAL POLICE CAPTAINS URGE REFORMS

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Aug 82 pp 1-A, 11-A

["Private Network" column, by Manuel Buendia]

[Text] Two veteran detectives want Miguel de la Madrid to listen to what they have to contribute to reach one of the goals in the moral renovation of the society: professional improvement of the plice force.

In effect, there seems to be a notable void in the information that De la Madrid obtained in this regard during his campaign.

Vigorous and widespread complaints were brought before the future president. Throughout the length and breadth of the country citizens raised angry voices to denounce abuses by police organizations. And in the Federal District accusations and criticism were documented against the corrupt secret police operating under the department, and in general in regard to the functioning of the colossal apparatus under the command of Arturo Durazo Moreno.

Almost on the eve of the elections Miguel de la Madrid himself sarcastically criticized the public boasting of Durazo, although he did not refer to him by name. When the candidate called immature and coarse officials "of the whip" whom he has seen "with 10 motorcyclists and 5 patrols," everyone knew to whom he was referring. And when he added: "We are not going to permit this," he won several thousand votes.

But neither in the popular referendum organized by the Institute of Political, Economic and Social Studies nor in the spontaneous participation of other citizens was anything said that reflected the point of view of the two policemen--from different guilds--who are also not in agreement with the state of things and would like to have a president who would at last listen to the suggestions of the guardians themselves. If such ideas have any advantage it is that they come from individuals who "know the monster because they have lived within it."

There are no journalists in Mexico City who do not know two inseparable police-men: Captains Jesus Miyazawa and Rosalino Ramirez Faz.

As in the advertisement for those flu pills, there are two of them and they are taken together. Whoever says Faz says Miyazawa and vice versa. Both came out of the Military College 36 years ago and joined the Federal Security Office when there was still the romantic idea of creating a sort of Mexican FBI. Also arriving with them was another graduate of that heroic institution, Fernando Gutierrez Barrios. Miyazawa and Faz have been with the District Judicial Police since 1959, and in recent years they have been chief and assistant chief. It is unusual to find policemen with such long service who have neither been involved in scandals nor have a well-earned reputation for corruption. But they do exist, and those governing it cannot ignore them.

Every evening Faz and Miyazawa write down what they daydream about in regard to what they could do to improve the police if they really had the chance. On this occasion I have received a letter from Capitan Faz: "Twelve years ago, 6 years ago and 3 months ago Chuy and I sent similar work to this one. Now you are on that commission, according to what we read in some newspapers.

"Our purpose is to serve; we do it on good faith based on our experience.

"We read you and now we challenge you to read us."

Faz is referring to the Commission for Moral Renovation established by De la Madrid on 4 August, in which this reporter takes part, along with 134 other persons. What both captains have asked to be read is a paper of more than 80 pages signed by Faz and with this aggressive presentation:

"The police department is a problem of daily interest everywhere, in all shades and forms. Every 6 years there is talk of Mexico City's problems and it is said that they are the police, garbage and urban transport, results of the population explosion which is the principal ingredient of the capital city's gigantism. Nevertheless, the solutions arise in cronyism, in connections and disgraceful agreements. Enough! A solution is urgently needed. The people of Mexico deserve it."

The study begins with an example of erudition that most people would not suspect in a detective. He speaks of the birth of the Code of Crimes and Punishment in Paris as an answer to the demands of the French Revolution. Back there in the third Brumaire of the fourth year.

He then argues solidly in favor of having a judicial police calling itself investigative, of a sort that conceptually dispenses with "repression," because this is not its true state function.

The author says ironically: "Since there are no police books in our country, other than the translations that come to us, there is confusion." In other countries, such as the Anglo-Saxon countries, "police experience includes arraignment and illicit activity and the police continue to participate in instruction, something that does not happen in our environment.

"Let us seek first to identify repression: Is investigation repression? Is collecting evidence repression? What about preliminary investigation? Frankly, we think not."

It is interesting that a police chief would also say the following: "Enough of insisting so vehemently on honesty. What the police department needs is legal honesty: Let us not allow policemen performing in the face of an illicit act to alter the evidence, to modify the statements or to change anything.

"We have the police force that we need, with individuals who are mentally and physically sound and above all normal. The police are the Mexican people, not foreigners; in or out of uniform, they are Mexicans.

"Up to now we have been following the procedure of selecting personnel by using tests almost always copied from other countries, and therefore, with other idiosyncrasies.

"Let us establish a laboratory to properly analyze the conduct of police who have been suspended and the conduct of those who have distinguished themselves in performing their duties. There would be the formula that they so desire: A psychological and physical profile of the ideal that is sought."

The study by Faz, after 23 years experience with the attorney general's office of the federal district, also includes the indicating of gaps in the law that impede preliminary investigation, and it criticizes the incapability of certain agents of the Public Ministry who delegate to the police the duty of putting together a complete preliminary investigation, when it should be their own legal duty to indicate ways and limits in the detectives' work.

Captain Faz reflects: "The old sport of chastising the police is a subject that should be discussed every time that it is brought up. It is the favorite subject of those who, short on imagination, use the resource of vilification and resort to stereotypes and cliches to shine as champions, defenders, etc. In our time and environment it will always be easy to attribute the evil, the perverse and the cruel to others without offering true solutions.

"The police require special analysis. Society should be careful with vague and undocumented imputations and those that properly belong to the inveterate criminals and which are among the resources used by some lawyers to cloud evidence, promote doubts and negate the results of a successful investigation.

"To avoid errors in police behavior the solution is in the inevitable and unavoidable preparation. So many years were wasted in not permitting development and not accepting what is true: Police investigation should have technical autonomy, but surrounded by regulation and procedures born of the Mexican experience.

"It is sufficient to note in a simple way what is happening in our environment to understand the police problem: Lack of adequate preparation and legislation, accompanied by employment instability, only produce inefficiency and failure, and with that a bad image."

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

LIST OF CORRUPT OFFICIALS BEING PREPARED FOR DE LA MADRID

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 26 Aug 82 p 5-A

[Article by Rafael Medina Cruz]

[Text] The Attorney General's Office of the Republic [PGR], at the request of President-elect Miguel de la Madrid, is preparing a list of former officials (from under-secretariats on down) who were fired or suspended during the current administration for immoral or illegal conduct, to assure that they will not be employed during the next 6 years.

For the last 3 days several agencies have been participating in this work. These agencies have brought charges before the PGR for various crimes committed by their officials.

The purpose of the information requested by Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado is to assure that none of the more than 2,000--this figure has been mentioned--former officials fired or suspended is rehired by the next government.

Also included in that list are former officials who, despite not having been suspended, were fired from their posts for presumed improper conduct.

The names of the former officials, as well as the transgressions committed and the amount defrauded, are noted in that report on corruption.

Prominent among the agencies bringing the greatest number of charges against their officials are: Secretariats of Communications and Transport, of Agriculture and Water Resources, of Finance and the CONASUPO [Government Basic Commodities Company].

In charge of preparing the report on names is Javier Coello Trejo, agent for special affairs with the Federal Public Ministry, who refused to confirm or deny the said information.

This list is in accordance with Miguel de la Madrid's demand for "a new morality."

The PGR files, controlled by computer, will facilitate the task of submitting the report on corruption as soon as possible.

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COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

EXPLOITATION OF REFUGEES CHARGED

Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 23 Jul 82 p 4

[Text] CIOAC [Agricultural Workers and Peasants Independent Central] director Dr Jose Dolores Lopez charged yesterday that Mexican immigration agents have been charging large sums to issue 90-day entry permits to Mexico for the Guatemalan refugees. He indicated that this infringement has been denounced to Interior Secretariat authorities. This charge was confirmed yesterday at the opening in Chiapas of the National Solidarity with the Guatemalan Refugees Meeting.

This meeting was organized by the Committee for Solidarity With the Guatemalan Refugees, which comprises such groups as the Educational Workers Coordinating Body, the Plan of Ayala National Coordinating Body, the CICAC, and representatives of the Autonomous University of Chiapas and the National Indigenous Institute. Lopez said that included in yesterday's activities was a tour of several refugee camps to find out how many had had to pay the high charges and to implement improvements in the difficult living conditions of the Guatemalans who are fleeing the repression in their country. The work will be completed tomorrow at a meeting in San Cristobal de las Casas.

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COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

BRIEFS

YUCATAN POLICE LANGUAGE PROBLEM--Merida, Yucatan, 29 Jun--Two hundred and thirty state Judicial Police agents were fired over the last 5 months for not speaking Spanish. The director general of that body, Alfredo Navarro Zuloaga, disclosed that those agents only spoke Mayan and that they had problems communicating with their immediate supervisors, and some were not trained to perform police work.
[Text] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 30 Jun 82 p 41-A] 8146

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